Repairing of communication system in Andhra Pradesh

82. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Ministre of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details estimated damages to the communications system in Andhra Pradesh due to natural calamities during the last year;

(b) whether Government have repaired all the communication system and if so, how many communication systems have been repaired so far; and

(c) what is the expenditure Government had to incur on the repairs?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) There were extensive damages and interruptions in communication system in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh due to cyclones and floods during October and November, 1987.

—Services were affected in 27 exchanges in October, 1987 and in 106 exchangse in November, 1987.

—Services were affected to 621 telephones in October and 4268 telephones in November, 1987.

—Exchanges failed due to power failure.

—local and trunk lines were damaged due to gale winds.

(b) All the communications have been restored.

(c) An expenditure of about Rs. 20.0 lakhs has been incurred in repair and restoration of communications.

Setting up of Thermal Power Plant by BSES

83. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation requesting to reject the proposal to set up a thermal power plant by Bombay Suburban Electric Supply at Dahana, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the representations and what is the point-wise response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) A representation has been received in regard to setting up of a thermal power plant by M/s. Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES) Limited, in and around Dehanu in Maharashtra. It has *inter alia*, been stated in the representation that the proposed project would cause ecological imbalance and jeopardize horticultural development in the area.

No proposal in respect of setting up a power station at Dahanu has been received from M/s. BSES. Their earlier proposal, which was approved in principle, relates to setting up of a 500 MW thermal power station at Bassein near Bombay.

Development of wind energy in Orissa

84. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope in Orissa for generating power through wind energy; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to increase the generation of wind energy in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The actual scope for generating wind power in Orissa is being assessed by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, which has taken up wind mapping, wind monitoring and complex terrain survey projects in the State. The data thus generated will be utilised for planning wind power projects. In the mean time wind farm of capacity 1.1 MW has already been established at Puri in the State and over 6.5 lakhs units of electricity have been fed to the State grid. A 100 KW grid connected wind electric generator has also been installed at Kaipadar. Further more, three 4 KW wind battery charging systems are under installation in Orissa.

Crisis in paper industry

85. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the paper industry has urged the Government to come up with some early policy initiatives to forestall a crisis of sickness overtaking the entire industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to shrinking profits and persisting stagnation some of the medium and big paper mills are even facing closure as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 14th April, 1988;

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to contemplate to provide relief to the paper industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although the paper industry has been complaining of declining profits and stagnation of demand, there is no definite indication of any medium and large paper mills facing closure on account of these reasons.

(c) The paper industry is confronted with the problems of availability of cellulosic raw materials, shortage of power and coal and technological obsolescence. The overall performance of the Industry in terms of capacity build-up and production is considered to be satisfactory. The installed capacity of the industry has gone up from 24 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 to 28.51 lakh tonnes at the beginning of 1988. The production of paper and paperboard which was 13.70 lakh tonnes in 1984 has also gone up to 16.80 lakh tonnes (estimated) during 1987.

(d) Various reliefs and concessions have been extended in recent years to enable the paper industry in general to improve its capacity utilisation and financial viability. In the Budget proposals for 1988-89, a reduction of Rs. 100 per tonne in excise duty applicable to small paper mills and a reduction of Rs. 300/- per tonne in the case of other mills using non-conventional raw materials has been announced. The problems of paper industry are kept in view while formulating policies and programmes for the development of the industry, from time to time.

Power Projects for Orissa

86. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any power projects have been sanctioned for Orissa in 1986-87 and 1987-88 till date; and